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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,157	11/28/2001	Mark Maggenti	000211D9	4008

23696 7590 04/21/2004

Qualcomm Incorporated  
Patents Department  
5775 Morehouse Drive  
San Diego, CA 92121-1714

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THUAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2685

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

*See attachments*

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,157

Applicant(s)

MAGGENTI ET AL.

Examiner

THUAN T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

3. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830/ or "Sigler" hereinafter) in view of Sensel et al. (US Patent 6,091,714).

Regarding claims 1-8, Sigler discloses an exact system and method for a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net over a distributed network (Figs 1 & 9 for including other networks such as PSTN, MTS, private networks even to LAN and WAN networks including the Internet with IP or TCP/IP of the Internet are addressed in col. 1/lines 14-20 for satellite communication network, col. 3/line 64 to col. 4/line 11 for LAN/WAN, col. 13/lines 38-43 for mobile network, and in the Glossary, col. 44 & 49 for IP and TCP/IP); within the communication system, Sigler discloses a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network comprising sending a message to a communication device for determining whether the communication wishes to stay a participant in the net and

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listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device responses or sends a response within a predetermined time period (col. 17/line 38 to col. 18/line 36 for the user engages in the net communication group or deactivating from it; and col. 22/line 50 to col. 23/line 44 for call monitoring whether a communication device is active or not within a net communication group); and wherein the group communication system including a (group) controller to manage the group communication net and interfacing with push-to-talk communication device (col. 10/lines 10-24 & col. 17/line 25 to col. 18/line 8), including the method of handling or processing packet data with a transmitter and receiver to send and receive packet data (col. 35/lines 20-24 as user routes messages using Mobile Packet Data Service), further including a user activated mechanism for user to activate the transmitter or the push-to-talk communication device for transmitting the mentioned packet data (PTT button is used for activating the push-to-talk communication, col. 19/line 40 to col. 20/line 7) as well as the communication device is wireless (Fig. 1, and col. 16/line 61 to col. 17/line 7 for mobile users addressed), including a memory within the wireless device (for storing ID into a memory, in col. 21/lines 8-15), and a database for storing packet data for until the controller is ready to receive the packet data (Fig. 3 for a data hub in handling MET user packet switched); a controller as NOC oversees the operation of the system in managing and controlling system resources regarding the group communication net (Figs. 3-4, 8-9, and col. 3/line 64 to col. 4/line 3) further including a priority service (col. 20/lines 8-15) such that the priority is dynamically configurable in a manner that an interruption can occur for users with more priority requests (col. 9/lines 45-64 & col. 36/lines 44-67 for priority and dynamic features) and a secure mode (col. 26/line 54 to col. 28/line 55 for encryption and techniques for ensuring anti-fraud acts and securing technique

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with encryption algorithm); the communication device further including identification information, as well as a cellular ESN for identifying each mobile user by identification updates or matching that ESN to home cellular carrier (col. 34/lines 33-37), and updated information can be done or changed with new information (col. 20/lines 23-34 & Fig. 9 for mobile users in different nets) as well as the including of the dormant mode, wherein the group communication net is capable of offering, and with the user's activation prompting the controller to activate the group communication net (col. 30/line 54 to col. 32/line 25 for standby modes).

As an addition to claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, Sigler does not clearly show the step of "sending a message to a net participant asking the participant whether the participant wishes to remain participate in the net"; however, this technique is taught by Sensel as Sensel teaches that an inquiry message is sending to the users in the PTT operation or PTT conference that whether the user wishes to stay by sending a response back to the system (Sensel, Figs. 8, 10, 11 & 13, and col. 33/line 65 to col. 34/line 55 & col. 37/line 52 to col. 38/line 47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sigler's technique and system with Sensel's monitoring and control PTT system as taught in order to verify and confirm whoever would like to participate in the PTT conference or not in order to preserve the available communication channels.

As for claims 10-32, these claims with same limitations as in claims 9, 17, and 25 are rejected for the same reasons as already discussed in details above for claims 1-8.

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***Conclusion***

**4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,*

*2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

**5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Thuan Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-5860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.



**TONY T. NGUYEN  
PATENT EXAMINER**

*FSB*

Tony T. Nguyen  
Art Unit 2685  
April 16, 2004